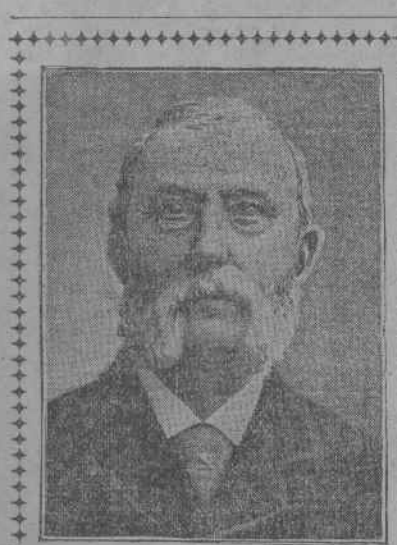


"MAKE HOTELS SAFE!" THE PUBLIC CRIES.

Gerry Alone, Who Got \$83,000 Rental from the Windsor, Keeps Uter Silence.

While Brave Fellows Risk Their Lives in the Ruins, Public Men Say "No More Horrors."

What law can be passed and what precautions can be taken to prevent the possibility of another disaster such as that at the Windsor Hotel was everywhere the main topic of conversation yesterday. That a new law is absolutely needed, that with-



Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry.

He is the owner of the burned Windsor Hotel, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, a yachtsman, society leader and many times a millionaire.

out sharp and drastic legislation people's lives will continue to be at the mercy of fire-trap hotels, was conceded on all hands. Differences of opinion were such as regarded the exact lines to be followed in new legislation.

There is one man in New York who will not express his views. He is Elbridge T. Gerry, and his home is a fireproof palace on Fifth avenue. He has another fireproof palace at Newport, and so many millions that he can live in a fireproof palace in any part of the world he pleases.

He is a famous philanthropist, too. He owned the Windsor Hotel and received a rental of \$83,000 a year for the property.

The public is deeply interested in Mr. Gerry's views in regard to the awful tragedy at that tinder box hotel, but he is not willing to let the public know what they are.

"No," said the butler at Mr. Gerry's door last night, "an instructed to tell every newspaper man—and there have been many of them here—that Mr. Gerry absolutely refuses to see any of them."

Should Name Unsafe Hotels. "People ought to be told which are the unsafe hotels," said former Senator Frederick S. Gibbs. "Let the public be told which are the fire traps and they won't patronize them. That would be better than any amount of laws."

"If the Fire Commissioner finds a hotel to be unsafe, he ought to tell the public, even if the building does happen to comply with the law in its construction. If the Fire Chief, or the city inspectors, find a hotel to be unsafe, they ought to tell the public, even if the building does happen to comply with the law in its construction. If the Fire Chief, or the city inspectors, find a hotel to be unsafe, they ought to tell the public, even if the building does happen to comply with the law in its construction."

"But we want stringent laws, too, for we cannot be sure that officials will make all their knowledge public in the way I have suggested. And the laws should cover the entire State, and not just the big cities. 'County legislators, who are prone to make laws about New York City, should be made to realize that there are scores of green fire traps in the country, and which would go up like tinder. Let the new laws cover them, too."

Frankish by the hotel proprietors who do not fully observe laws about fire escapes."

So said former Police Commissioner Thomas L. Hendon, who said as there is only a fine imposed some are sure to try to evade the law. The idea of imprisonment would frighten them into compliance. Hendon is a former congressman, and chairman of the Republican City Committee, said:

"First of all, there would be to have all death traps pulled down."

"But I realize that there would be great difficulty in deciding just what buildings are death traps, and I want to say that greater difficulties encountered in fully adjusting the rights of private property."

"Invested rights in buildings put in full compliance with existing laws cannot lightly be ignored."

"It is too serious a subject to be discussed without care, and I want to say that while I feel the necessity of a great reform, I am not suggesting the shape it should take."

Condemn All Bad Ones.

Sentor Thomas F. Grady said:

"Any other hotel that is as bad as the Windsor should be condemned at once. It should not be used as a hotel, nor should it be turned into a factory or used for any other purpose that would involve the gathering of a large number of people."

"Such buildings should not be allowed to jeopardize life, and such laws should be made, and made at once, as will make it impossible for any such disaster as that of the Windsor ever again to occur."

Sentor George H. Malby, of St. Lawrence County, was outspoken for a reform.

"I am heartily in favor of any law that will keep away with the awful menace of fire traps."

"We should have absolute safe guards on all fire traps destroyed."

"But there are points of detail to see to as well."

"The Fire Department ought to be equipped with a great number of life nets, so that people would not jump upon stone pavements. Any jump from higher than the second story means almost certain death or terrible injury."

Corporation Counsel Whalen said:

"Something ought to be done at once, but I cannot say, without more study, just what new laws should be made."

Not at Work on New Law.

Mr. Whalen denied a long story that appeared in a morning paper yesterday that he

offered that Assistant Corporation Counsel Otterbourg was already at work on a new law.

"No such work has yet been begun," he said. "By either one of my assistants or myself. Nor does the outline of the law as printed in the paper cover my own ideas, for I do not know as yet what my own ideas are."

"It is not unlikely that a bill will be prepared in my office very shortly. Human lives must be needlessly risked."

President George Cronwell, of the Borough of Richmond, said:

"I seriously know what to suggest beside a gradually increasing system of safeguards."

"Watchmen and engineers should be constantly at their posts. Why I understand that when the Windsor fire started the hotel hose could not get water because the engineers were watching the parade."

"It ought to be like a military system, and a man should be punished, like a soldier, if he is away from his post."

"What to do with buildings of old-fashioned construction it is hard to say, but at least there should be fire escapes everywhere, and plenty of them. Had there been fire escapes on the Fifth avenue front of the Windsor, some lives would certainly have been saved."

Reform Wanted at Once.

Police Commissioner Jacob Hess said:

"There should be immediate legislation of a stringent character. Hotels, churches and all public gathering places should be under absolute safety as is humanly possible."

"There should be plenty of fire escapes and there should be severe regulations regarding entry in this particular, or in regard to the omission of fire alarms, bells and fire plug attachments."

"It is a grave problem, and should be approached in an earnest spirit. And there should be no more consideration for the resort of the poor. A hotel on Broadway or Fifth avenue should be as sharp as a razor, and as cheap as a cheap lodging house. Human life is too precious to be trifled with."

Police Magistrate Clarence W. Meade said:

"If there are other dangerous hotels, and I do not doubt there are, they should be seen to at once. To compel them to put in fireproof walls in place of the present walls would be as expensive as to build new hotels, and it is hard to prove, and it would be a hardship to compel owners to tear down their buildings."

"But if it is necessary, to insure the safety of human life, no hardship is too severe. Nothing should be allowed to weigh against danger to life."

Go to Hotels That Are Safe.

Thomas J. Brady, Commissioner of the Department of Buildings, said:

"Numerous old-fashioned hotels in this city cannot be made any safer than was the Windsor. They comply with the present law in regard to plenty of fire escapes, hand grenades and fire hose, but being of fireproof construction, would burn up very swiftly if a fire should get well started."

"The only real safety to the public lies in patronizing the fireproof hotels, put up under the new law. They cannot burn up, and if the people go to them, the owners of the poorly constructed hotels will tear them down and build new ones themselves."

"The present laws provide for sharp and thorough inspection of hotels of distinctly non-fireproof construction."

Frank Found.

Two trunks, one of which was identified as the property of Abner McKinley and the other as the property of Colonel Thomas P. Ochiltree, were taken from the ruins yesterday. Another trunk, recovered from the ruins Saturday night, was identified as the property of Mrs. Beckham. A rug and a quantity of women's clothing were sent to the East Fifth street police station, as were also a silver handled mirror with the initials "M. B. J.," a bag of drawing instruments bearing the name "W. H. Hardy," a cut glass vase marked "G. D.," and a silver box marked "A. T. D."

REAR WALL CRUSHES

TWO 47TH ST. HOUSES.

Buildings Had Been Vacated, But Four Workmen Have a Narrow Escape from Death.

A portion of the rear wall of the hotel adjoining the houses, Nos. 6 and 8 East Forty-seventh street, and towering six stories above their roofs, came down with a crash at 10:30 o'clock last night. Five laborers were at work on the swaying wall a few moments before it fell, and were ordered off barely in time to save their lives.

The wall fell Chief Devery sent men to the houses from No. 3 to No. 13 East Forty-seventh street, opposite the ruins, and warned the occupants to retire to the rear part of their houses.

Eight hundred men, working in shifts of four each, were still taking the ruins at 11:30, and nothing of great value had been discovered.

KNOWN TO HAVE DIED

IN THE FIRE, BUT 10.

Duplication of Police Reported "Unknowns" With Recognized Victims.

Had Swelled the List.

From a careful investigation, it appears that the actual known deaths from the fire—those who have died in hospitals and elsewhere—are ten. The "unknown" persons mentioned in the police reports as having been taken from the ruins at the time of the fire are included in the list of the following:

Uncertainty prevails as to the missing. Every hour advises come telling of the safety either in this city or in some other city of persons reported missing.

MISS HOFFMAN GIVEN

UP AS LOST BY FRIENDS.

Baltimore, March 19.—The relatives and friends of Miss Dora Hoffman, of this city, who was registered at the Windsor Hotel on the day of the fire, and who has since been missing, have given her up for lost.

Her place, the Misses McLane, who were also guests at the hotel, but who were at luncheon in another part of the city when the building was burned, returned to Baltimore to-night.

Miss Hoffman was about sixty years old. She was a daughter of the late Samuel Hoffman. The Hoffmans have always been prominent in the professional and social life of Baltimore.

392 "WANT" ADS. GAINED

Yesterday over same Sunday last year, Monday morning results make

em grow.



STILL NO DEAD FROM THE RUINS.

Instead, Tons of Brick Fall Upon the Grave in Which They Lie.

NECESSARY TO SAFETY.

Chimneys Dynamited and Threatening Walls Undermined and Razed.

A great shifting curtain of smoke and steam, swayed and shaken by the wind, hung yesterday over the unsightly pile which four days ago was the site of the Windsor Hotel, but which is now, beyond all question, the tomb of fully half a hundred victims.

Through the cloud, as it parted now and then for an instant, were visible the buttressed stumps of brickwork which were strong enough to withstand the disintegrating heat of Friday's fire. Piled in confusion in the steaming crater underneath were bricks, huge fragments of carved stone, shattered ironwork and pipes which had been twisted like toys of water.

Fire engines stationed in the cross streets played incessant streams of water upon the still smouldering ruins, as they have been doing for three days and nights. They were dirty and rusted from long exposure to the ceaseless rain. The smoke from them added to the pall which overhung the whole neighborhood. The firemen who tended them were dragged and heavy-laden from overwork.

Digging for Growsome Finds.

Where the persistent flow of water had done its work hundreds of men, rough and dirty beyond measure, delved and dug hour after hour in the debris, some loosening the mass with picks and spades, some pitching the bricks out upon the fast growing heaps which covered the curbs and spread out over the street. Others, with the aid of long ropes, pulled down parts of the structure yet standing and dragged out the huge stones and pieces of iron.

As a matter of fact, there was little to be accomplished. The water which the firemen were pouring over the ruin and all the rain which had fallen only cooled the ruins. When the debris was reached the heat prevented them going any further. The smoke was insufferable, too, and from time to time a grimy workman had to be pulled out to the street where he could breathe.

New squads of men were put at work as fast as they could be obtained to take the place of those who were worn out by the long labor. As fast as men went out on duty they were supplied with red tickets for presentation on their return. At noon Superintendent John Brooker, of the Building Department, said the emergency corps of men, coming all three of the eight shifts, numbered somewhat over 2,500 men.

Searched as They Left Work.

Each gang of men, as they knocked off work, had to pass the searchers, and deliver whatever trinkets or papers they had found in the course of their rummaging. These were kept in a small hut, which had been built amid the rubbish heaps, just where the main entrance to the hotel was. In the course of the day several small articles, principally the personal property of guests, were found, as told elsewhere.

While the dismal search went on crowds of people who were fortunate to possess the badges passed up and down the avenue. Thousands, silent, gloomy, curious, surged against the heavily guarded fire lines and gazed at the scene with morbid interest. The limits of the fire's work there were of officials in plenty. Fire Commissioner Scannell and Chief Hugh Bonner, with three or four of the battalion chiefs, spent hours about the place. Chief Devery was there, with Inspectors Cross and Harley, and Commissioner of Police Thomey.

Coroner Bensch and Coroner's Physician Donahue stood about among the ruins, waiting for the bodies of the dead. A crowd of about a hundred men, mostly firemen, stood in the street, waiting for the bodies of the dead. A crowd of about a hundred men, mostly firemen, stood in the street, waiting for the bodies of the dead.

Destroyed by Dynamite.

A little after midday Inspector Cross's men passed up and down the avenue, driving the people away from the Forty-sixth street corner, where there still stood frowning through the mist the two tall chimneys left standing from the fire. Under the influence of the Fifth avenue Contractor Dan Sweeney, in charge of the Emergency Wrecking Corps of the Building Department, had been placed a thirty-pound charge of dynamite.

The wires were carried out to the Fifth avenue corner, and when the streets were cleared Sweeney pressed the button. There was a shock which rattled the windows in the neighboring houses, many of which had been already shattered. No upward hurrying of bricks and mortar followed. There was only a rumble, and a crumbling as the big chimney tottered into bits, and cutting inward Madison avenue became part of the



Tearing Down the Last Walls of the Windsor.

The perilous task of destroying the remaining walls of the burned Windsor Hotel by piecemeal is made necessary by the fact that the use of dynamite or other explosives would endanger adjoining dwellings. Workmen were called off the high ledge yesterday just in time to escape being carried down to death when a large section of the wall fell.

great mass of rubble. The fire, Contractor Sweeney said, had already disintegrated the brickwork that it yielded with unusual readiness.

Boy Hurt by Falling Glass.

Shortly after 3 o'clock the second of the chimneys was destroyed. The repeated shocks had so loosened the glass in the windows of J. M. Hodgson's lower store, on the southeast corner of Fifth avenue and Forty-sixth street, that it fell into the street, where it was stepped by Dr. Austin Flint. Then the boy was sent home.

Through the later hours of the afternoon a squad of workmen sent by Contractor Sweeney climbed over the roofs of the adjoining houses in Forty-seventh street, and, nailing the bricks down in a sprinkling into the rear wall of the Windsor, which like an old country ruin rose, six stories high, seared and discolored, above the gap where the fire had been. There were fragments of roofing, the cornices, and wrecks of the fire escapes clinging to the side walls. Others, who were not wanted, then battered away, preparatory to knocking the wall down. The men were charged with the perilous undertaking. They were Patrick Donohue, Richard Butler, Patrick O'Hara, John Parsons, Lawrence Ryan and Patrick Morgan, Irishmen.

Perilous Work on Wall.

Already, in fear that fragments of the wall might break away and crash through the roofs of the dwellings below, the occupants had been counselled in the morning to seek shelter elsewhere. For almost two hours the daring workmen perched on the shattering wall, far above the roof tops, pounded away with their mason's hammers, and the bricks down in a sprinkling into the street. Thousands of people, thronging the streets away below them, stared breathlessly at the men as they changed position on their perilous perch, pursuing their work as nonchalantly as if it were a stone-breaking job on terra firma. Sometimes the swirling smoke and mist hid the daring workmen from the spectators, but when they were visible the spectators counted to see if any had fallen. Then a wind came, whistling the men and the scaffolding in its radiance the plucky fellows still hammering on. By and by they fastened a rope to the cornice, and, descending to the street, braced the ladders when they went back to their airy places again.

The wind had grown to all of a gale. Standing at the corner of Forty-seventh street, Chief Devery, with all the rest of the multitude, stared at the wreckers on the wall. Of a sudden he turned, spoke a word, and hurriedly to Commissioner Grady, pointed with his umbrella at the wall, then ran down Forty-seventh street and shouted to the policemen and firemen on the roofs of the houses nearest.

Warning Given in Time.

"Tell those fellows to come down quick!" he cried, "that wall's going!"

The workmen heard him, and the rats or roaches skurried down the shabby fire escapes and across the roofs of the first three houses. It was not an instant too soon. With a roar like a catarrh the great wall, shaken by the wind, tottered, buckled and fell. Its top hurtled down into the street, and the lower part of the wall, which had been almost as far as the adjoining roof, fell to the eastward, crushed through the roofs of the dwellings Nos. 6 and 8 East Forty-seventh street, the former occupied by S. S. Crowell, tearing through the floors and ceilings to the second story. The crowd followed the noise of the falling wall, and hundreds of people hurried around into Forty-seventh street in the belief that the workmen who had been on the crest less than five minutes before had been buried in the wreck.

When night came, enormous gasolene lights were brought in, and in their glare the work went on. At 9:30 Inspector Cross took a squad of men to Forty-eighth street and sent them through the houses into the rear yards to notify people in Forty-seventh street to keep out of the front rooms opposite the swaying wall.

BRADY SAYS SUCH HOTELS OUGHT TO BE RAZED.

After an examination of the walls after the fall of the building, my inspectors and myself were convinced that such hotels as the Windsor ought not to be permitted to stand. They should be razed to the ground, but, of course, the power to do this is lacking. This department knew the Windsor to be an unsafe building, but could do nothing except make the proprietor put up fire escapes, hose and extinguishers. This was done, but the danger was only guarded against in part. There were fire escapes on each floor. One large one led into the court yard in the rear of the building. There were two fire escapes on the Forty-sixth street side of the hotel, taking in four windows each. These, like the others, ran down to the second floor, where emergency ladders were placed, to be let down. There were two more fire escapes on the Forty-seventh street side. Now, the Fire Department is obliged to see to it that each room in a hotel which looks on the street is provided with some means of escape. If the fire ropes were not long enough to reach the street, it is the fault of the Fire Department.—Statement by THOMAS J. BRADY, Superintendent of Buildings.



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